

Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe

Ghost Dike Advance Mitigation Project Pre-Bid Contractor Site Tour

January 21, 2022

Contractor Questions and Responses

1. How to handle the muck while filling breaches?

Response: Do not allow turbidity to escape the site. Mucky sediments should be contained within the work area isolation area and can get backfilled along with the breach and borrow ditch filling.

2. What are the outboard limits of the excavated high marsh tidal channels?

Response: Outboard limits are identified on the plans as the outer edge of rhizomatous vegetation.

3. Why was the project re-bid?

Response: The Shoalwater Tribe is rebidding this project to provide more optimal bidding conditions.

4. Clarification questions about dike (and supplemental borrow area, if used) strippings, organic soils, and invasive species, and where they should be disposed.

Response: Strippings, organic soils, and invasive species (other than cattails) can go in the bottom of the borrow ditch and backfilled. Only the cattails are required to be hauled to the upland staging and stockpile area.

5. Clarification about hog fuel for use as access road surfacing.

Response: Hog fuel is allowed as a temporary access road surfacing material. All hog fuel must be removed from the site and disposed by the contractor upon project completion.

6. Is there a probable construction cost available?

Response: A probable cost estimate is not available.

Bid Period Contractor Questions

February 1, 2022

Contractor Questions and Responses

1. What is engineer's estimate/range?

Response: The Tribe has elected to not share the engineer's estimate or the budgeted amount.

Commented [RL1]: Tribe needs to confirm this – we have not seen the Tribe's response to a similar question posed during the site walk?

2. Could you clarify the "settling" discussion? The engineer mentioned that the contractor may have to come back out to put additional fill in areas that settle below the specified grades (top them off)? This would be challenging given how wet it is and expensive so could you clarify tolerances, options to slightly overfill, etc.? Does this include potentially having to come back out at the end of the 1-year warranty period?

Response: Some settlement is expected, but it is expected to be nominal due to the shallow fill depth and low compactive effort. Only settlement observed over the 2-week period identified on the plans needs to be addressed. The plans identify a finish grade elevation range of 8.5 – 9.5 feet NAVD88, with a variability that mimics the adjacent marsh hummocks. The contractor could elect to slightly overfill but the finish grade after 2 weeks needs to be within that target elevation range, and needs to have the variability identified. Observations of the breach soil plugs (and potentially the remainder of the breach area soil fills), which are the first fill areas to be placed and the deepest fills, should give a good indication of the amount of settlement that could be expected and help make decisions about overfill strategies for the remainder of the borrow ditch filling.

3. Since filling the ditch is lump sum on the bid sheet, can contractors assume that there is sufficient fill in the dike to do all the filling required? We just want to make sure that we wouldn't have to purchase/import any additional fill? Does the engineer have a cubic yardage estimate?

Response: Earthwork quantity estimates are included on Sheet G-2 of the plans, which show that a surplus is expected. Import of additional fill is not expected to be required.

4. Are Prevailing Wages are required for this job?

Response: No.

5. Could you clarify the extent of dewatering required? During the job walk dewatering was mentioned just for the dike breach fill areas - not the entire ditch fill.

Response: Dewatering locations are identified on the plans at the 2 breach locations because these are the low points for drainage from the landward side of the dike. Dewatering out of the 2 breach locations is expected to keep the borrow ditch and the rest of the landward project area dewatered, with the possible exceptions noted in Note 4 on Detail 1, Sheet C-7.

6. Can you confirm that all trees/brush onsite can be used for the specified "woody debris habitat piles"? And that there would be no additional imported wood required?

Response: No imported wood will be required. The woody debris habitat piles will be comprised entirely of brush and trees cleared from the dike (that are not used in the wave break brush bundles).

7. Can you clarify where the areas of additional mowing are that are listed on the bid sheet? Can we access these areas with a machine or is this all assumed to be hand/labor work?

Response: No mowing is specified. Assuming the question pertains to the invasive species scrapedown areas, those areas are shown as hatched polygons on Sheets C-1, C-2, and C-3 along the southerly project boundary.

8. The specifications require a 1-year warranty. Does this include potentially having to remove equipment out if there is settling due to winter conditions, high tides, etc.?

Response: Only short-term settlement (the 2-week period identified in the plans) needs to be addressed.

9. Could you clarify General Note 15 - it indicates biodegradable hydraulic fluid in all hydraulic equipment. Typically, this is just required in Excavators. Could you please clarify?

Response: Permit conditions require that all equipment working in wetlands and waters use biodegradable hydraulic fluid.

10. Have all project permits been obtained? Does the contractor need to obtain any additional permits for the project? Does a CESCL need to be onsite?

Response: All project permits have been obtained. The Tribe will have a CPESC representative on site during construction.

11. The grading notes indicate that "THE SUPPLEMENTAL BORROW AREA SHALL ONLY BE USED AFTER ALL GHOST DIKE MATERIAL HAS BEEN USED OR ACCOUNTED FOR AS FILL." It will be difficult to get out to the supplemental grading area after the dike has been excavated down to grade. Are there options to use and stockpile this material early on given potential access constraints later on as the dike gets removed?

Response: As noted in the response to question 3, earthwork quantities indicate that surplus dike excavation material is expected. The supplemental borrow area was identified early in the project as a contingency given the variability of the Ghost Dike and borrow ditch dimensions, erosion of the dike, and unknown extents of sediment accumulation in the borrow ditch. The supplemental borrow area is not allowed to be used or stockpiled early. If the supplemental borrow area needs to be used, the removed dike footprint would appear to be the more optimal haul route, as identified on the plans.